

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06
SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02
/066 W

-----037086 131843Z /41

R 131409Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6331

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 1105

E.. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, SOCI, SF

REF: CAPE TOWN 1092

SUMMARY: IN EFFORT TO MOBILIZE PUBLIC OPINION AS LAST
DEFENSE AGAINST ENFORCED EVICTION, REPRESENTATIVES OF CAPE
TOWN'S SQUATTER COMMUNITIES RECENTLY MADE ABORTIVE EFFORT
TO APPEAL TO UN AND USG OVER THE HEAD OF THE SAG AND THEN
PUBLICLY RETRACTED THE EFFORT WHEN ADVISED BY ATTORNEYS
THAT SUCH APPEALS COULD LEAD TO PROSECUTION UNDER TERROR-
ISM ACT. VISIT TO SQUATTER CAMP BY CONGENOFF NOTED
BRIEFLY IN PRESS REPORT JULY 13. END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING RECENT ISSUANCE BY SAG OF "FINAL" EVICTION
NOTICES (REFTEL) REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME 25 - 30,000
SQUATTERS FROM THREE CAMPS OUTSIDE CAPE TOWN HAVE MADE
DESPERATE EFFORTS TO MOBILIZE PUBLIC OPINION IN BELIEF
THAT IT IS LAST REMAINING RECOURSE IN EFFORT TO HALT
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EVICIONS. SQUATTER REPS HAVE HELD NUMEROUS
PRAYER SESSIONS, DECLARED A THREE-DAY FAST AND APPEALED
TO CHURCHES, WOMEN'S MOVEMENT AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
TO SUPPORT THEIR CAUSE. A WEEKEND PRESS REPORT INDICAT-
ED SQUATTERS ALSO INTENDED TO APPEAL TO UNITED
NATIONS AND TO USG. IN FACT, COMMITTEE HAD PREVIOUSLY
DRAWN UP A STATEMENT WHICH INCLUDED APPEAL TO UN "TO

INTERCEDE ON OUR BEHALF" AND TO US AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS
"WHO HAVE HEAVY INVESTMENTS IN SA TO GIVE US
MATERIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT." HOWEVER, DISTRIBUTION OF
STATEMENT WAS HAPHAZARD (CONGEN DID NOT RECEIVE ONE)
AND WAS GENERALLY OVERLOOKED BY THE PRESS.

2. ON JULY 12, HOWEVER, SQUATTERS WERE ADVISED BY
ATTORNEYS THAT THEY COULD CONCEIVABLY BE PROSECUTED FOR
SUCH APPEALS UNDER TERMS OF TERRORISM ACT OF 1967 WHICH
MAKES IT CRIME TO COMMIT ANY ACT WHICH, INTER ALIA,
LIKELY TO "FURTHER OR ENCOURAGE...ANY SOCIAL OR ECON-
OMIC CHANGE...IN COOPERATION..OR WITH ASSISTANCE OF
ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OR INSTITUTION." SQUATTERS'
COMMITTEE ISSUED PUBLIC STATEMENT REPORTED IN JULY 13
PRESS DENYING THAT IT HAD MADE OR AUTHORIZED ANY
APPEAL TO UN OR TO USG AND THAT IT HAD BEEN ADVISED BY
ATTORNEYS THAT TO DO SO COULD CONSTITUTE CONTRAVENTION
OF SOUTH AFRICAN LAW.

3. IN VISIT TO MODDERDAM CAMP JULY 12 ACCOMPANIED
BY DIRECTOR OF CAPE FLATS INTERIM ACCOMMODATION
COMMITTEE - A CHURCH-FINANCED GROUP WHICH HAS
BEEN ASSISTING SQUATTERS, CONGENOFF SPOKE TO SEVERAL
MEMBERS OF WOMEN'S COMMITTEE, MAKING CLEAR THAT PURPOSE
OF VISIT WAS SOLELY TO OBTAIN FIRST-HAND
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IMPRESSION OF PROBLEMS AND ISSUES INVOLVED. WOMEN
SPOKE SIMPLY BUT ELEQUENTLY OF THEIR DESIRE TO
KEEP THEIR FAMILIES TOGETHER AND OF THE PRECARIOUS
EXISTENCE WHICH A RETURN TO "THE COUNTRY" WOULD ENTAIL.
CONGENOFF LATER CONFIRMED TO INQUIRING JOURNALIST
THAT HE HAD VISITED CAMP FOR PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING
INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION. BRIEF
REPORT WAS CARRIED IN LOCAL PRESS JULY 13 SAYING
THAT CONGENOFF CONFIRMED THAT FIRST-HAND INFORMATION
WHICH HE HAD OBTAINED WOULD BE PASSED ON TO USG.

4. COPIES OF STATEMENTS BY SQUATTER COMMITTEES, COPY
OF TERRORISM ACT AND RELEVANT PRESS REPORTS BEING
POUCHED AF/S AND EMBASSY PRETORIA. WHITE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: COURT DECISIONS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, SQUATTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAPET01105
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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